In the Claims:

Please renumber pages 130-141 as pages 63-74.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 28 (amended):

A method of using [the TBA of claim 12] a target binding assembly (TBA) or a booster binding assembly (BBA) comprising at least one nucleic acid recognition unit, and optionally one or all of the sequences selected from the group consisting of a linker sequence, an assembly sequence, an asymmetry sequence, a nuclear localization signal sequence (NLS) and an optional support attachment (OSA) wherein said TBA is administered to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of said TBA, which comprises administering the TBA, either in the form of a purified protein complex or in the form of a recombinant vector which, upon entry into the patient is able to express the TBA, such that the TBA binds [the] a particular nucleic acid sequence to achieve the desired prophylactic or therapeutic result.

Claim 42 (amended):

A method of amplifying [the] a signal obtained through binding [the PNA of claim 1 to a TNA which] to a target nucleic acid (TNA) a probe nucleic acid (PNA) comprising:

(a) a single-stranded sequence, 1/2 target binding region (TBR), which is capable of forming, under hybridizing conditions, a hybrid, TBR, with a 1/2 TBR present in a TNA;

(b) a single stranded sequence, 1/2 booster binding region (BBR), which is capable of forming, under hybridizing conditions, a hybrid BBR, with about 0-10 1/2 BBR present in a booster nucleic acid (BNA); and

(c) an optional support attachment (OSA);